

BOATS WRECKED IN AMERICAN PORT

BIG TORONTO CLUB FIRE IS LAID TO PLOT

Wrecking of \$300,000 Home of Americans Thought Work of Aliens.

HAD HELPED ENGLAND

Was Birthplace of Regiment—One Dead; Many Not Expected to Live.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 16.—The \$300,000 home of the American club, a social organization of American residents in Toronto, was destroyed by fire today. The fire followed explosions, the cause of which has not yet been determined, but the fact that the members of the club have shown strong pro-ally sympathies and that the 97th Overseas regiment, popularly known as the American legion, had its birth there, caused the police and military authorities to suspect that the fire was the result of a plot by alien enemies.

Captain Asa Minard of the American legion was so badly injured that he may not recover. He was sleeping on the top floor when he was aroused by the first explosion. He had slid half way down a rope fastened to the window sill when a second explosion forced him to let go his hold and drop to the sidewalk.

Several other officers of the American legion who were sleeping in the building when the fire broke out, escaped by the rear doors and windows. Two employees of the club were slightly burned.

One is Suffocated.
The interior of the building was destroyed and the roof fell in. The walls are intact. The property loss was placed at \$50,000.

A man believed to have been P. I. Hairston, formerly of Dallas, Tex., was found suffocated just inside a window on the third floor. Edward Johnston, night watchman of the Mechanics' bank next door to the American club, was dangerously injured when he was struck by a chimney which fell into the street.

The club's caretaker was picked up in the debris in the street. His skull was fractured and he was thought to be fatally hurt.

FAMILY HURT WHEN HOME IS DESTROYED

Freeport, Ill., Feb. 16.—Bert Gilbert, his wife and two children were severely burned and their home destroyed by fire today when Gilbert attempted to start a fire in the kitchen stove by using kerosene. One of the children, a girl two years old, probably will die.

CHICAGO ROUSED AT NEW ANGLE IN POISONER'S CASE

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Police Captain Collins today said he had received information that the mineral poison believed to have caused the illness of guests at the banquet to Archbishop Mundelein last week was only a secondary poison, but that some other drug was put in the soup with intent to kill.

Search for Jean Crones, assistant chef at the University club, who, the police believe, poisoned the soup, spread today to include a half dozen nearby cities.

Captain Nicholas Hunt declared he had additional evidence against John Allegrini, who is held on a charge of conspiring with Crones.

Fire in a locker room in the city health department quarters in the city hall near where the samples of soup from the University club banquet and the chemicals and explosives found in Crones' room are stored as evidence in the poison plot, was being investigated today as having a possible connection with the poison case.

The fire was discovered by the medical inspector in charge through the early hours today. The blaze was quickly extinguished, the only damage being the scorching of the woodwork in the locker room. The cause of the fire was not determined, and whether it was due to spontaneous combustion or other agencies was inquired into.

A broken bottle retaining the odor of oil was found on the floor of the locker room.



\$2,000,000 FIRE IN NEW ENGLAND TOWN REPORTED

Fall River, Mass., Feb. 16.—Estimates made by owners of property and proprietors of stores in a section of the business district swept by fire today around Main and Spring streets indicated that the total loss would be approximately two million dollars. A score of buildings, including the Lenox apartment hotel, and several of the largest retail stores in the city, including the Steiger department store, were destroyed and many others badly damaged. There was no loss of life and no one was injured. The heaviest loss, \$500,000, was suffered by the Steiger Drygoods company.

A determined stand made by the firemen in the rear of a long line of burning buildings kept the flames from spreading to a congested tenement house district. Residents of these wooden tenements, frightened at the prospect that their homes would be lost, fled to the snow-covered streets with little clothing.

At the north end of the burning district, a water curtain on the department store of R. A. McWhir & Co. prevented a further spread. The granite walls of St. Mary's cathedral protected a residential district nearby.

During the fire, drug stores, restaurants and churches were thrown open for the relief of firemen and police and people driven from their homes. Coffee and sandwiches were distributed. The guests at the Lenox hotel were given shelter in private residences.

POLICE HUNT FOR CHICKEN SLAYERS

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 16.—Half of Springfield's night police force was engaged last night in an unsuccessful hunt for dogs which are accused of the wanton killing of more than 200 chickens within the last week.

Owners of small flocks of chickens in the north and east parts of town have made numerous complaints to the police and until two dogs were seen leaving a yard by one chicken owner just after he had found 19 fowls with their necks broken, it was thought weasels were responsible.

Yesterday Chief of Police Morris issued orders sending half his night force on a hunt for the marauders.

DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE

Discussed Newland's resolution for special investigation of railroad legislation.

Attorney General Gregory, before lands committee, denied prosecution of oil men who entered withdrawn lands except those who violated the law.

Judiciary sub-committee continued inquiry on nomination of Louis D. Brandeis for supreme court justice.

HOUSE

Considered miscellaneous bills. Rear Admiral Grant continued testimony on submarines before naval committee.

Little Italy Is Again Active Police Think

Chicago, Feb. 16.—The murder late last night of Gennaro Scrimmento, a jeweler, is believed by the police to be the first step in what they style a "murder campaign" which officers believe to be inaugurated by a newly organized band of gangsters and gunmen in Chicago's "Italian" district. Scrimmento was shot near "death corner" which, because of the many avenues of escape available, has been a favorite spot for murders which in the past have been committed by the so-called Camorristas.

According to the police it has been learned that hundreds of wealthy Italians have been served with demands for money under threats of death.

In five years 179 murders have been committed near "death corner."

FIX LIFE LOSS IN MINE FIRES AT 21

Butte, Mont., Feb. 16.—Twenty-one men were victims of Butte's worst mine disaster, which resulted from the fire which broke out in the air shaft on the 1,200 level of the Pennsylvania mine here Monday night.

This developed this morning when the bodies of the last six to be accounted for were found by a crew of nine helmet men at the foot of the Man-Way on the 1,200 foot level of the mine about 1,000 feet from the station.

Noxious gases prevented the immediate removal of the bodies but it was thought probable the bodies would be brought to the surface during the day. Fifteen bodies have already been taken from the mine and are being prepared for burial.

The fire, which started in the air shaft at the 1,200 foot level, the same level in which the last victims were found, has been practically extinguished. The burned air shaft has caved in from the 1,000 to the 1,200 foot level. The fire area has been bulkheaded but apertures have been cut for the playing of streams on the ruins from the higher levels.

CONTINUE PROBE OF GIRL'S DEATH

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Continuance of the coroner's inquest into the death of Marian Frances Lambert, Lake Forest high school girl, poisoned in the woods on the Cyrus McCormick estate, is expected today. It is believed the inquest will not be resumed until a report is received from experts who are testing poison crystals found in the dead girl's hand, in an effort to establish beyond all doubt the exact nature of the poison that caused her death.

No new evidence of an important nature regarding the alleged connection of Will H. Orpet, Wisconsin university junior, with the girl's death has been discovered, according to the authorities.

ILLINOIS WOMEN ARE DENIED VOTE BY COURT RULING

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 16.—Women of Illinois were denied the right to vote for delegates and alternates to national nominating conventions, state central and precinct committeemen in a decision of the supreme court. The decision held that while the legislature had the right to give women the suffrage it had not yet done so and it was not within the province of the court to write the privilege into the law.

The decision was made in denying the petition for a writ of mandamus filed a few days ago by J. T. Garrettson of Springfield against Charles W. Byers, clerk of Sangamon county to force him to put the names of candidates for those offices on the women's ballots. State's Attorney Edmund Burke of Sangamon county filed a demurrer to the petition in which he held that the legislature had not given women the right to vote for the offices in question. The court sustained the demurrer.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—Officers of the Illinois Equal Suffrage association, when informed of the supreme court ruling denying to women the right to vote for national convention delegates in the spring primary, said today that no effort would be made by the association to modify the ruling, as the association wants only those voting privileges which the law gives.

IOWA WOMAN, AGE 60, FOUND GUILTY

Winterset, Iowa, Feb. 16.—Proceedings for a new trial or an appeal to the supreme court will be taken at once by counsel for Mrs. Ida Meyer, aged 60, who late yesterday was convicted of second degree murder on a charge of complicity in the murder of her daughter-in-law last July.

Mrs. Meyer's attorneys said this morning they were undecided as to which action they would take, but that they will either ask a new trial or appeal the verdict.

District Judge Applegate is expected to pass sentence on Mrs. Meyer late this week or the first of next week. Mrs. Meyer, said to be the oldest woman ever convicted on a murder charge in Iowa, is at liberty on \$30,000 bond.

BLOWN TO ATOMS BY AN EXPLOSION

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 16.—Charles Baker, local manager for the Washington Torpedo company of Washington, Pa., was blown to bits today when he entered the company's storehouse in Olmstead Falls, a suburb, to get a load of nitroglycerine.

Three minutes after he went into the building 800 quarts of the explosive kept there, blew up. The detonation shook the countryside for miles breaking windows, felling trees and damaging furniture. The building was reduced to splinters.

2 SHIPS BURN AT BROOKLYN HARBOR DOCK

As Steamers Were Being Loaded With Munitions Ruined by Fire.

LOSS TOTALS MILLIONS

Docks and Many Small Boats Destroyed—Two Dead—Suspect Plot.

New York, Feb. 16.—The British steamships Bolton Castle and Pacific, and a 900-foot pier belonging to the New York Dock company at the foot of Pioneer street, Brooklyn, were destroyed early today by the most disastrous fire on the Brooklyn waterfront in years. Another steamer, the Palladia, was damaged, about 25 scows and lighters, were partly or wholly burned. Six hours after the fire started the police said they had accounted for all but two coolies, and it was believed the death list would be limited to that number. The property loss is estimated at considerably more than \$1,000,000.

The origin of the fire is unknown but suspicions that it was incendiary were aroused because of the fact that some of the steamers were loading with war munitions, some of which was intended for shipment to the Russian government and to be delivered at Vladivostok.

A watchman aboard the Bolton Castle discovered that the buildings on the pier were on fire soon after 1 o'clock this morning. The blaze spread so rapidly that the officers and crews of the steamers and lighters lying at the pier, after a vain effort to prevent the spread of the flames to their vessels, were compelled either to leap overboard or to seek safety aboard other lighters or tugs which hastened to the rescue.

Jumped in Sea to Escape.
The three steamers lying at the pier were surrounded by a fleet of about fifty lighters and barges on each of which was one man or more. On some of the barges were the wives and families of the captains. Some of them were compelled to jump overboard to escape the swift rush of the flames.

Firemen and policemen dragged many of them out of the water to adjoining pier and others were rescued by tug boats or fire boats.

Captain Benjamin Smith of the Bolton Castle and six of his crew escaped by crawling hand over hand on a rope to a barge. Mrs. Smith fell into the water, but was rescued by sailors. All the rescued persons were given shelter on a nearby pier.

Loss Estimated at \$3,000,000.
Later the estimated property loss was placed at more than \$3,000,000. A statement issued on behalf of the agents for the owners of the steamships Bolton Castle and Pacific, said their investigation "thus far has failed to develop any evidence which would lead to the conclusion that the fire was of incendiary origin."

Ship Burns at Philadelphia.
Philadelphia, Feb. 16.—Investigating is being made today by city authorities, officials of the Earn Line Steamship company and the British consulate to determine whether the fire which damaged the sugar cargo of the British steamship Dalton at a wharf here last night was of incendiary origin. The loss is placed at \$100,000. The fire was the sixth to occur on British steamers loaded with sugar within the last month.

BOAT DAMAGED IN MYSTERY ATTACK

New York, Feb. 16.—The steamer Yumuri arrived here today from Mas-coris, San Domingo, and reported having been in collision with an unknown schooner yesterday morning, 14 miles southeast of the Five Fathom bank lightship off the entrance to Delaware bay.

The schooner struck the Yumuri in the port bow, fell off and struck her a second time. The schooner's jib boom caught on the fore rigging and broke her ribs. A few davits of the Yumuri were smashed. After the passengers had been quieted it was found that a mess boy who was sleeping in the forecastle, was missing, and P. Hollander, a fireman, was badly injured.

The Yumuri remained in the vicinity for nearly two hours but was unable to find the schooner. The Yumuri is under charter to the Porto Rico Steamship line.

THE WAR TODAY

Erzerum, the chief city of Turkish Armenia and the principal Turkish stronghold in this region, has been captured by the Russians, according to a news dispatch from Petrograd.

Not much attention was paid for many months to the Caucasus campaign, the Russians apparently having small forces there. With the appointment of Grand Duke Nicholas to the chief command, however, it was hinted that important developments might be looked for. Prices of foodstuffs continue to rise in Great Britain under war conditions. The January increase in retail rates is officially announced to have been approximately 1½ per cent.

The Germans have shifted their offensive from the Aisles and Champagne regions in France to Belgium in the neighborhood of Ypres where the British are entrenched. By a continuous bombardment for two days with artillery and by infantry attacks the Germans drove the British out of their trenches over a distance of 800 yards. Berlin claims that a majority of the defenders of the trenches were killed and that several dozen of soldiers were taken prisoners. In the Aisles, Lille and Vosges regions, the French and Germans are still fighting artillery engagements, but no notable gains have been reported by either side.

Berlin claims that two British warships were sunk off the Dogger Bank on Feb. 10, and that they were of a new type, built for mine and anti-aircraft service. The British admiralty, however, reiterates its previous statement that only one vessel was sunk.

The latest German note on the Lusitania is before Secretary Lansing. All the changes suggested by the American government, except one, have been adopted in the new draft and Teutonic officials here believe that it will be entirely satisfactory to the United States.

TWO ARE LOST IN MICHIGAN BLAZE

Midland, Mich., Feb. 16.—Two persons burned to death and damage estimated at \$150,000 was caused by a fire which destroyed a block of business buildings early today. Miss Della Taylor, a milliner, escaped from her rooming place, but later attempted to save some of her belongings and perished. A man who rushed into the building and tried to rescue her, also lost his life. The postoffice, a general store and jewelry and shoe stores were among the buildings burned.

Latest Bulletins

Washington, Feb. 16.—A body which may be that of American Consul Robert N. McNeely of Monroe, N. C., who was lost in the destruction of the liner Persia in the Mediterranean, has been washed up on the shore near Alexandria.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 16.—Mrs. Joanna Corberly of Las Vegas, N. M., aged 55 years, took her life by drinking carbolic acid on the steps of the church here Monday, it was learned today.

Galveston, Texas, Feb. 16.—Ajusco, a fortified Zapata stronghold, was captured by Constitutional forces after a battle of several hours, says a report to the Mexican consulate here today. Zapata forces suffered heavy losses.

Washington, Feb. 16.—After adding \$700,000 for improvement of East river channel at New York from Governors Island and the Battery to the navy yard, the house committee on rivers and harbors today voted a favorable report on the annual rivers and harbors bill, aggregating \$39,698,410. All new projects except New York harbor were voted down.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 16.—The crew of the British steamer Baron Napier, a mule ship which arrived here today from Alexandria, Egypt, brought stories of a battle in the Mediterranean on Jan. 17 between the Baron Napier and a German submarine, in which the steamer escaped.

London, Feb. 16.—Great damage has been done all over the country as the result of a 50-mile gale. Telephone, telegraph and electric wires and poles were blown down, farm buildings and bridges wrecked and railroad signal stations demolished.

RECEIVE NEW BERLIN NOTE IN LUSITANIA

Last Reply From Germany Expected to Be Satisfactory to America.

COMMENT IS RESERVED

Bernstorff Refers Reports to Lansing Who in Turn Refuses to Talk.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Count von Bernstorff today presented to Secretary Lansing the latest draft of the Lusitania agreement, embodying the changes suggested by the American government and also one change suggested by Berlin. The indications were that the agreement in its present form probably would be acceptable to the United States.

When Count von Bernstorff came from Mr. Lansing's office after a visit of less than ten minutes he said: "Gentlemen, I refer you to the secretary of state."

Almost at the same time Mr. Lansing sent out this message: "I have nothing to say."

Awalt Wilson's Judgment.

Count von Bernstorff presented formally the draft of the agreement and it is understood was informed it could not be accepted as final until it had been submitted to President Wilson. The indications were it seemed satisfactory to Secretary Lansing.

As now drawn and formally signed by the German ambassador the agreement is in reply to the last American note.

Subs Only Blockade Reprisal.

It begins with reference to the formal announcement given by Germany last September that submarines would not sink unresisting liners without warning and regard for the safety of life aboard and that the instructions to submarine commanders were so definite as to allow no misunderstanding. It then states that the submarine warfare around the British Isles was a reprisal for what it characterized as the "inhumane" blockade of Great Britain to starve the central powers, and then promises indemnity for Americans lost on the Lusitania and expresses "profound regret for their deaths."

It goes on to say that the German government "recognizes liability" for their loss, makes the proposals contained in the draft submitted today and then goes on to deal with the question of reprisals against others than enemy subjects. The change which the Berlin foreign office has made in the wording of the latter proposal has not been publicly disclosed, but from the air of optimism which prevailed today there was a general impression that the chances of its delaying the negotiations were slight.

REPUBS DEFEAT ROOT PROPOSAL

New York, Feb. 16.—The committee on resolutions of the republican state convention decided by unanimous vote today to endorse the administration of Governor Whitman, but to attach the endorsement to a separate plank dealing with state issues.

It became known while the committee on resolutions was in session that endorsement of former Senator Elihu Root for the presidency was proposed and that it became the subject of a long argument.

Mr. Root's name was proposed by John A. Schleicher and Henry L. Stinson supported Schleicher's motion in a vigorous plea in which he argued that Mr. Root was the logical candidate. The matter was the subject of debate for more than half an hour, after which a vote was taken and the proposal was defeated.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and vicinity.

Fair tonight and Thursday, continued moderate temperature with the lowest tonight about 30 degrees.

Temperature at 7 a. m., 26. Highest yesterday, 37; lowest last night, 25. Velocity of wind at 7 a. m., eight miles per hour.

Precipitation, none. Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 75; at 7 a. m., 80; at 1 p. m. today, 61.

Stage of water, 10 feet, a fall of .1 in last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.